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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-15 ISO-00 NEAE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01

EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00 IGA-02 EA-11 ARA-16 /190 W
---------- 022708
P 051120Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9984
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
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E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, XJ, IS
SUBJECT: ZAIRE'S RUPTURE OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

SUMMARY: FEELING OF BETRAYAL EXPRESSED BY EBAN IN NEW YORK OVER MOBUTU'S BREAK WITH ISRAEL CAN ONLY BE DEEP BECAUSE MOBUTU HAD TOLD ISRAELIS THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN IN NEAR FUTURE AND HAD GIVEN THEM REASON TO BELIEVE IT. EFFECT IN REST OF SUBSAHARAN AFRICA PRESUMABLY WILL BE EXTENSIVE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ZAIRE'S IMPORTANCE IN CONTINENTAL TERMS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE ZAIRE WAS AFRICAN NATION WITH WHICH ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WERE ACTIVE IN MANY FIELDS. DANGER OF ARAB STEAMROLLER AT UNGA IN GETTING OTHER AFRICANS TO BREAK WITH ISRAEL CANNOT IN MY VIEW BE DISCOUNTED. AS WASHINGTON WELL KNOWS, THIS COULD HAVE DISTINCTLY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON ISRAELI ATTITUDES IN MIDDLE EAST TERMS, SINCE IT HAS BEEN ISRAEL'S REMARKABLE NETWORK OF TIES WITH STATES OUTSIDE MIDDLE EAST WHICH HAS HELPED ISRAEL LOOK WITH RELATIVE EQUANIMITY AT ITS TOTAL ISOLATION FROM SURROUNDING ARAB STATES. I RECOMMEND THAT US WATCH SITUATION CLOSELY AT UNGA AND, IF NECESSARY, TRY TO HEAD OFF FURTHER AFRICAN RUPTURES WITH ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

1. MOBUTU'S ANNOUNCEMENT OCTOBER 4 AT UN OF SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL MUST COME AS STUNNING BLOW TO GOI. ALTHOUGH ISRAEL HAD DISCERNED OCCASIONAL DANGER SIGNALS SINCE LAST JUNE, AS OF OCTOBER 3 FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS CONVINCED THAT SITUATION WAS COMPLETELY UNDER CONTROL FOR MOMENT AND WOULD REMAIN SO FOR NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS IF NOT LONGER.

2. DIRECTOR RUPIN OF CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 3 THAT ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HAD INDEED HAD WARM MEETING WITH MOBUTU SEPTEMBER 20, AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY KINSHASA (KINSHASA 8349 NOTAL), AND THAT MINISTRY WAS CERTAIN MOBUTU, WHO COULD EASILY HAVE POSTPONED SUCH MEETING UNTIL AFTER HIS RETURN FROM UNGA, WOULD HAVE DONE SO IF HE WAS EVEN CONSIDERING BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IN NEAR FUTURE. RUPIN SAID THAT MOBUTU
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FURTHERMORE HAD GLADLY AGREED TO RECEIVE EBAN WHILE IN NEW YORK. RUPIN SAID MOBUTU TOLD ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HE WAS NOT AT THIS TIME CONSIDERING RUPTURE WITH ISRAEL. ALSO, MOBUTU WAS HIGHLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HOTEL ISRAELIS WERE TO BUILD IN KINSHASA WITH PRIVATE GERMAN FINANCING, AND RUPIN WAS POSITIVE ZAIRE WOULD NOT HAVE SIGNED THREE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH ISRAEL IN SEPTEMBER ON HOTEL, WITH ISRAELI SPECIALIST TEAM COMING TO ZAIRE IN OCTOBER TO FINALIZE PLANS, IF BREAK

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WERE IMMINENT.

3. ONLY AS EXTRA PRECAUTION, RUPIN SAID, HAD ISRAELIS IN WASHINGTON IN LAST FEW DAYS REQUESTED THAT SENIOR US OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE SEEING MOBUTU DURING HIS NEW YORK VISIT MENTION TO HIM IN VERY LOW KEY THAT US WAS PLEASED THAT ZAIRE, AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND UNLIKE OTHER AFRICAN STATES, HAD RESISTED ARAB PRESSURES AND HAD CONTINUED ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-15 ISO-00 OMB-01 NEAE-00 CIAE-00

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---------- 022853
P 051120Z OCT 73
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9985
INEB RUESIJ/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 0057
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4. RUPIN ADDED THAT THE TWO SITUATIONS IN AFRICA WHICH ISRAEL WAS WATCHING CLOSELY WERE ZAIRE AND NIGERIA. ISRAEL KNEW THAT THESE TWO COUNTRIES HAD RECENTLY CONSIDERED BREAKING TIES WITH ISRAEL, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD DECIDED FOR TIME BEING AGAINST IT. ISRAEL DID NOT BELIEVE HAILE SELASSIE HAD EVEN CONSIDERED IT. THESE WERE THE THREE COUNTRIES IN AFRICA THAT MATTERED. IF EVER ZAIRE OR NIGERIA, OR ESPECIALLY THE TWO OF THEM, SHOULD TERMINATE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, ISRAEL'S ENTIRE POSITION IN AFRICA WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY.

5. IMPORTANCE OF ZAIRE BREAK AS COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS RUPTURES BY AFRICAN STATES IS ENORMOUS, AS ISRAELI COMMENTATORS TODAY ARE POINTING OUT. (A) MOBUTU WAS ONE OF THREE WISE MEN WHO CAME TO MIDDLE EAST AS PART OF OAU 1971 PEACE MISSION AND ON WHOM ISRAEL WAS ABLE TO COUNT. (B) UNLIKE OTHER AFRICAN STATES WHICH HAVE BROKEN WITH ISRAEL, ZAIRE IS NEITHER RADICAL, NOR POOR (AND THEREFORE TEMPTED BY LIBYAN OR SAUDI BRIBES), NOR TROUBLED BY LARGE MOSLEM POPULATIONS. (C) AND UNLIKE OTHERS, ISRAELI COOPERATION WITH ZAIRE IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY SPHERES, HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE.

6. AS SEEN FROM HERE, RUPIN'S JUDGMENT AS TO POSSIBLE EFFECT ON ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH REMAINING 25 AFRICAN COUNTRIES (INCLUDING MADAGASCAR AND MAURITIUS) MAY UNFORTUNATELY BE CORRECT. FURTHERMORE, UNGA MAY PROVIDE ATMOSPHERE AND SITUATION FOR STRONG, COORDINATED, AND SUDDEN BURST OF NORTH AFRICAN AND OTHER ARAB PRESSURES ON SUBSAHARAN STATES TO FOLLOW EXAMPLE OF ZAIRE (AND THE SEVEN AFRICAN STATES WHICH PRECEDED ZAIRE) IN BREAKING TIES. IF ARABS SHOULD BY ANY CHANCE ACHIEVE STEAMROLLER EFFECT IN NEW YORK AMONG AFRICANS, IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT ISRAEL'S RELATIONS IN ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA COULD SUFFER AS WELL, WHERE AT LEAST A FEW COUNTRIES HAVE SEEMED TO WAVER SLIGHTLY IN THEIR CONTINUED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL (PANAMA, NEPAL, ETC.).

7. AS DEPARTMENT WELL KNOWS, ISRAEL'S REMARKABLE SUCCESS IN DEVELOPING WIDESPREAD CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD

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OVER PAST TWO DECADES HAS BEEN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL
FACTOR IN RELIEVING DEPRESSION AMONG ISRAELIS WHICH TOTAL
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ISOLATION FROM SURROUNDING ARAB COUNTRIES WOULD OTHERWISE
HAVE. RECKLESSNESS OF SOME RECENT ISRAELI COUNTER-TERRORIST
ACTIONS NOTWITHSTANDING, ISRAEL ON WHOLE HAS BEEN ABLE TO
PRESERVE RATIONAL AND MEASURED ATTITUDE TOWARD ARABS
SURROUNDING IT BECAUSE, TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, ISRAEL HAS FELT
A PART OF WORLD OUTSIDE MIDDLE EAST. A RAPID SHRINKAGE IN
NUMBER OF THIRD WORLD STATES HAVING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL
COULD HAVE DANGEROUS EFFECT ON TEMPER OF THIS COUNTRY IN TERMS
OF US MIDDLE EAST INTERESTS. AN EXAMPLE OF EXTENT OF HIGH LEVEL
WORRY IN ISRAEL IS FACT THAT DURING MY CALL OCTOBER 2 ON SOCIAL
WELFARE MINISTER HAZANI, NOT GENERALLY THOUGHT OF AS INDIVIDUAL
INTERESTED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE VOLUNTEERED TO ME HIS DEEP
CONCERN ABOUT GROWING ARAB INFLUENCE IN SUBSAHARAN AFRICA
AND THE NEGATIVE LONGTERM IMPLICATIONS THIS COULD HAVE FOR
WESTERN POSITION IN AFRICA.

8. I RECOMMEND THAT US WATCH SITUATION AT UNGA
CLOSELY AND, IF NECESSARY, TRY TO HEAD OFF FURTHER AFRICAN
RUPTURES WITH ISRAEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV07756
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KEATING
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731046/aaaabhvo.tel
Line Count: 251
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRE'S RUPTURE OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL SUMMARY: FEELING OF BETRAYAL EXPRESSED BY EBAN IN NEW YORK
TAGS: PFOR, CG, XJ, IS, UNGA, (MOBUTU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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